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Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 23, wherein two guide stops (15) are provided at one of said two long sides wherein one of said two guide stops is close to each one of said two short sides (16, 17) of the scaffold decks (14).
3. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 2, wherein said two guide stops (15) provided at one scaffold deck (14) have a spacing from the two short sides (16, 17) of the scaffold deck (14) which differs such that when two long sides, which comprise the two guide stops (15), of two scaffold decks (14) lie adjacent one another on a single horizontal carrier (12) while in use, the two guide stops (15) are mutually offset in a longitudinal direction of the two scaffold decks such that the two guide stops of each scaffold deck rest adjacent one another and each abuts or contacts side surfaces of the adjacent scaffold deck (14).
4. (Currently Amended) A scaffold in accordance with claim 23, wherein the at least one guide stop (15) comprise a contact part (19) which is horizontal in a position of use, which can engage over an associated horizontal carrier (13) and which has a downwardly extending projection (18) at an end remote from the scaffold deck (14) which engages around the associated horizontal carrier (13) when being pushed on, during lowering and after lowering of the scaffold deck (14).

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5. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 4, wherein each guide stop (15) is made as an angled plate, with one limb forming the contact part (19) and another limb forming the projection (18).

6. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 23, wherein the at least one guide stop (15) is secured to a side of the scaffold deck (14) by means of an angled flange (20).

7. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 4, wherein an eyelet (21) is secured to a side of the scaffold deck (14) remote from the guide stop (15) wherein said eyelet includes an opening (22) made complementary to the projection (18) such that the projection (18) of an adjacent scaffold deck (14) can engage into the opening (22) to thus hold the adjacent scaffold decks (14) at a defined, small spacing (D).

8. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 7, wherein the eyelet is made as a limb (21) of an angled plate (23) wherein a second limb (24) of the angled plate (23) is secured to the side of the scaffold deck (14).

9. (Currently Amended) A scaffold in accordance with claim 23, wherein the second horizontal carriers (13) comprise of a tube member behind which ~~hooks~~ said holding means (26) engage which are offset relative to a longitudinal axis of symmetry (25) of the scaffold decks (14) and are offset from at the two short sides of the scaffold decks (14) and are adjacent to one another on the second horizontal carrier (13).

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10. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 9, wherein the tube member has a rectangular or round cross-section.

11. (Currently Amended) A scaffold in accordance with claim 9, further comprising recesses (27) next to the ~~hooks~~ holding means (26) at the two short sides of the scaffold decks (14) into which ~~hooks~~ holding means (26) of a scaffold deck (14) adjoining at each short side can engage.

12. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 9, wherein the first and second horizontal carriers (12, 13) consist of two parallel individual carriers (12a, 12b; 13a, 13b) arranged at a small spacing.

13. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 12, wherein the at least one guide stop (15) only engages over an individual carrier (13b) directly adjacent to the scaffold deck (14).

14. (Currently Amended) A scaffold in accordance with claim 12, wherein the ~~hooks~~ holding means (26) at short side (16) of the scaffold decks (14) engage behind individual carriers (12a, 12b).

15. (Currently Amended) A scaffold in accordance with claim 12, wherein the ~~hooks~~ holding means (26) at the two short sides (16, 17) of a scaffold deck (14) are mutually offset

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with respect to ~~the~~ a longitudinal axis of symmetry (25) such that the ~~hooks~~ holding means (26) of two scaffold decks (14) adjoining one another at the two short sides and engaging behind one individual carrier (12a, 12b) come to rest next to one another.

16. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 23, wherein the vertical supports (11) carry perforated roses (28) at vertical intervals at which ends of the horizontal carriers (12, 13) are secured, by means of hook and wedge arrangements (33).

17. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 23, wherein the scaffold decks (14) are elongate rectangles.

18. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 23, wherein four vertical supports (11) are in each case arranged at the corners of a square, and carry said horizontal carriers (12, 13), at pre-determined vertical intervals.

19. (Previously Presented) A scaffold in accordance with claim 23, wherein the vertical supports (11) consist of a plurality of vertical support sections (11') telescopically joined together.

20. (Previously Presented) A scaffold deck (14) for a scaffold in accordance with claim 23.

21. (Cancelled)

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22. (Previously Presented) A method of installing a scaffold deck on a scaffold in accordance with claim 23, said method comprising:

gripping the scaffold deck (14) at one short side (17);

setting the at least one guide stop (15) remote from the one short side (17) onto a second horizontal carrier (13) that extends parallel to the scaffold deck (14);

sliding the at least one guide stop (15) on the second horizontal carrier (13) until an opposing short side (16) remote from the one short side (17) approaches or contacts a first horizontal carrier (12);

tilting the deck about the second horizontal carrier (13) on which the guide stop rests to an extent that said holding means is positioned higher than the opposite first horizontal carrier (12);

pushing the deck to a position where said holding means is positioned over the opposite first horizontal carrier (12); and

bringing the holding means to rest into the position of use thereon where the holding means have engaged the first horizontal carriers, by tilting back and lowering the deck into the horizontal position.

23. (Currently Amended) A scaffold comprising:

a plurality of vertical supports (11) arranged spaced apart beside one another and behind one another, between which:

tiers (A, B, C) are arranged one above the other realised by:

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a plurality of first horizontal carriers (12) extending parallel to one another between adjacent vertical supports,

a plurality of second horizontal carriers (13) extending parallel to one another between adjacent vertical supports and arranged perpendicular to said first horizontal carriers (12) at the same height; and

a plurality of rectangular scaffold decks (14) each having two long and two short sides (16, 17) and holding means being provided at the two short sides, and wherein said decks are releasably supported in the assembled state of the scaffold through the holding means on two adjacent first horizontal carriers (12);

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a plurality of diagonal braces (35) being connected to adjacent vertical supports (11) characterized in that:

the decks (14) have at least one guide stop (15) projecting from one of said long sides and close to but spaced from at least one of said short sides (16, 17), said guide stop extending along only a portion of said deck and ~~which~~ is adapted to be slidably placed on a second horizontal carrier (13) in such a manner that the deck (14) held by an operator at the short side (17) remote from the guide stop (15) and operative to be displaced by sliding the guide stop (15) on the second horizontal carrier (13) to an opposite first horizontal carrier (12) and which is projecting to such an extent from said one side that by tilting the deck about the second horizontal carrier (13) on which the guide stop rests, said holding means is positioned higher than the opposite first horizontal carrier (12) so that the deck can be pushed to a position where said holding means is positioned over the opposite first horizontal carrier (12) and brought to rest into the

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position of use thereon, where the holding means have engaged the first horizontal carriers, by tilting back and lowering the deck into the horizontal position whereupon said holding means supports said deck upon said first horizontal carriers.